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Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

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Norton Announces Efforts to Assist WWII Veterans

Funds will send up to 35 Colorado Veterans to Dedication of National WWII Monument

(Denver)- Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton today announced her efforts to raise funds to help Colorado's World War II veterans with limited means attend the dedication ceremonies for the National World War II Memorial, which will take place on Memorial Day, 2004.

"Sixty-two years after Pearl Harbor, we should help Colorado's World War II Veterans reunite with their fellow servicemen from around the country on this important occasion," said Norton. "For those who cannot afford a trip to Washington DC on their own, this program may be their only opportunity."

In 2002, Governor Bill Owens signed House Bill 02-1284 into law, allowing the Colorado State Board of Veterans Affairs to send up to 35 World War II veterans to the opening ceremonies of the WWII Memorial. Under the law, each veteran may receive up to \$1,000 for travel and food expenses associated with attending the opening ceremonies. The Board will give priority treatment to WWII veterans with limited means and who could not afford the travel expenses. The law intended for funding to be provided through gifts, grants, and donations, however the account remains virtually empty at present.

"The dedication of this memorial could not have come a moment too soon," said Norton in a letter to Colorado business leaders, "Imagine the number of proud WWII veterans—veterans like my father, Major Walter "Bus" Bergman, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Retired—who would be honored to visit this memorial and pay tribute to their fallen comrades who made the greatest sacrifice for our country."

"I am sure that you share my desire to give Colorado's World War II veterans every chance to participate in these ceremonies and reunite with thousands of their fellow servicemen. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to aid those veterans who would not otherwise be able to afford the travel expenses required to attend the opening ceremonies."

The Lt. Governor is joined in her efforts by the Colorado State Board of Veterans Affairs and the United Veterans Committee, which represents over 460,000 veterans throughout Colorado. For more information please contact the Office of the Lieutenant Governor at 303-866-2087. If you would like to make a donation in support of the World War II Memorial Dedication Fund, please contact the Division of Veterans Affairs, at 303-894-7474. Checks may be made payable to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) World War II Memorial Dedication Fund, and mailed to the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs, 789 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203. No tax dollars were used in the printing or mailing of Norton's letter.

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